



TRANSPORTATION 2007 INITIATIVES

Hawai'i's aging transportation systems need repairs and should be well-maintained. This includes the state's airports, harbors, and highway system. Additionally, we need to plan and build now to meet the travel needs of the next decade. The Lingle-Aiona Administration has launched a major program to both improve existing transportation networks as well as meet the demands of the future.

Airports and Harbors

Airports

Last March, the Lingle-Aiona Administration unveiled a comprehensive plan to upgrade major airports on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and the Big Island. The \$2.3 billion, 12-year Airports Modernization Plan was developed in conjunction with input from the airlines and the traveling public. The Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2008-2009 budget makes the first significant investments in implementing this plan to upgrade passenger terminals, baggage handling, screening operations, runways and airport aprons.

Specifically, the FY 2008-2009 budget includes \$21.3 million for a new connector and people moving system at Honolulu International Airport, \$43.3 million for improvements to the Diamondhead Concourse, \$20.9 million for a cargo building and ramps at Hilo International Airport, and \$23.9 million for modernization of jet ways statewide.

Harbors

The State's commercial harbors are used to bring in over 90 percent of all of the goods consumed in the state. In conjunction with the Harbor Users Group, the Lingle-Aiona Administration has proposed \$10 million for pier improvements at Honolulu and Kahului Harbors to accommodate interisland barges and large cargo vessels.

The Administration is also proposing to spend \$4.3 million to rebuild Kalaupapa Harbor on Moloka'i so that supplies can continue to be received by this remote community.

The Administration is proposing to formalize a partnership between the State Department of Transportation Harbors Division and the Aloha Tower Development Corporation (ATDC) to use the authority already vested in ATDC to rebuild harbors statewide. This will allow Harbors Division to focus on the daily operational demands of running the states commercial harbors.

ATDC currently has jurisdiction over piers in downtown Honolulu where they have taken action to alleviate congestion and successfully moved Aloha Tower out of bankruptcy. The proposed legislation would expand their scope to cover the commercial piers on all islands and would also allow ATDC to utilize revenues from some of its existing or planned developments to support upgrades at other commercial harbors.

Highways

The Lingle-Aiona biennium budget includes \$133.2 million in major highway projects. Examples include \$46 million to widen Honoapiʻilani Highway in Lahaina, Maui; \$35 million for the North-South Road from Kapolei Parkway to the H-1 Freeway on Oʻahu; \$5 million for the Mamalahoa Highway drainage improvements in South Kona; and \$2 million for improvements to Waimea Canyon Drive and Kokeʻe Road on Kauaʻi. Also \$17.2 million in general obligation bonds will be spent on the East-West Connector Road in West Oʻahu.

To help finance these projects the Lingle-Aiona Administration is proposing \$36.4 million per year in cash be deposited into the State Highway Fund. The Administration is also proposing that the current \$1 per day rental car surcharge be extended beyond its current sunset date of June 30, 2007. This will continue to provide about \$14 million per year for the State Highway Fund. The surcharge is paid predominantly by out-of-state visitors who rent cars during their vacation or business trip.

Improve Traffic Flow and Safety

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

High occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are an important way to help speed traffic flow. Current law restricts the number of HOV passengers to two. This limits the ability of the director of transportation to adjust the HOV requirements to reflect traffic conditions. For example, when lanes are shut down on the regular freeway due to an accident, the director may want to allow single passenger vehicles in the HOV corridor. The Administration is proposing legislation to allow the transportation director to set the HOV requirements based on traffic conditions.

Graffiti

Vandals cost everyone in the state dearly. They ruin the appearance of our beautiful islands and it costs taxpayers to clean up the graffiti they have sprawled on public property.

To deter this behavior, the Lingle-Aiona Administration is proposing legislation to impose fines up to \$5,000 or the cost to have the damaged property repaired. Additionally, those who do graffiti may lose their driver's license for at least one year.

Commercial Driver's Licenses

The driving public needs to be confident that those who operate commercial vehicles, such as trucks and buses, meet the highest driving standards. Current law allows a person who holds a commercial driver's license (CDL) to plead guilty to traffic violations under a deferred plea arrangement and still retain their license.

This needs to be changed for two reasons. First, it allows poor drivers to remain on the road. Second, this policy violates federal law and jeopardizes the state's ability to continue to receive federal funds under the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance program. An estimated \$660,000 could be lost this year. That is why the Lingle-Aiona Administration is proposing changes in the law to no longer permit deferred or "no lo contender" pleas by those who want to continue to hold a commercial driver's license.